

CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNTRY Lebanon

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SUBJECT Activities of the Communist-Controlled Typesetters' Union
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SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT NO.

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1. The Communist-controlled Typesetters' Union held two meetings at the building of the Federation of Unions, under the chairmanship of Sa'd al-Din Muminah, which were attended by more than fifteen typesetters.

2. At the first meeting on 12 December 1948, the typesetters discussed the following questions:

a. The imprisonment of Mustafa 'Aris and Jean Nimr.

b. Sa'd-al-Din Muminah was instructed to try to persuade the Social Affairs Department to send an inspector, who would be accompanied by Muminah, to the printing press, to see whether the employers were applying the Labor Law properly to the daily work of the typesetters.

25X1X6

states that Sa'id Rida, an employee at the Social Affairs Department, sees all matters concerning unions, particularly anti-communist ones, and gives such information to the Communist Party, with which he is closely related. During the week of 12-18 December source states that Rida was in touch with Sa'd-al-Din Muminah, of the communist Typesetters' Union, and agreed to the idea of assigning an inspector from the Social Affairs Department to the Typesetters' Union, to carry out periodic inspections of all the printing presses. This inspection would be used for propaganda purposes by the Communists against the new Typesetters' and Bookbinders' Union, which source says is being joined by large numbers of workers. (C-6.)

c. They decided to withdraw some two thousand Lebanese pounds from the Bank of Syria and Lebanon to spend on the imprisoned typesetters. Since the money can only be withdrawn by the Union's head and treasurer, Sa'd-al-Din Muminah was told to obtain authority from 'Aris and Nimr which would empower the Bank to deliver the money to him.

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25X1A2g

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-2-

- d. They decided to hold a nation-wide lottery for the benefit of the Union, and asked the Union's lawyer to find out if they could do so without governmental approval.
3. On 19 December the second meeting was held in the same place, at which the following report was made:
 - a. Muminah said that he had asked the Office of the Prosecutor General for permission for him or the Union's members to see 'Aris, but was refused.
 - b. He was unable to get authority to withdraw the balance of the Union's funds, but was promised an interview for that week.
 - c. He reported that the Social Affairs Department had agreed to the suggestion of sending an inspector to the printing presses. The Union decided, in view of this, that each worker must be contacted at home, on the street or at work, and that the condition of each press must be examined separately, so that the workers might be encouraged to oppose the reactionary movement of the Lebanese Suroté Générale, and their morale strengthened against the threats of the employers and the Typesetters' and Bookbinders' Union.
 - d. The decision of the previous meeting to send telegrams of protest against the detainment of the head and other members of the Typesetters' Union to the President of the Republic, responsible authorities, and political personalities was approved.
 - e. As the Union's lawyer ruled that there would be no difficulty if the proposed lottery were conducted among Union members, it was decided to distribute the lottery cards to Union members to be sold to their friends and acquaintances.

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